

Joyce M Eden
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IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7617 (YOSE)

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Yosemite National Park
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, California 95389

Memorandum

To: Bob Schaevitz
From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park
Subject: Categorical Exclusion for Project Number 2003-030
Camp 6 Short Term Improvements (C91)

Your proposed project is an action that has been determined to result in no measurable environmental effects. It is therefore Categorically Excluded from further National Environmental Policy Act analysis under the category: DO12 3.4.C 09, *Repair, resurfacing, striping, installation of traffic control devices, repair/replacement of guardrails, culverts, signs, and other minor existing features on existing roads when no potential for environmental impact exists*

Necessary compliance coordination has been completed with regards to National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Endangered Species Act. This project clearance is valid under the condition that you adhere to the conditions stated in the attached environmental screening form and XXX (when attached) when implementing this project.

On the basis of the environmental impact information in the statutory compliance file, with which I am familiar, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No exceptional circumstances or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.


Michael J. Tollefson

6/7/03
Date

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I. Project Information**Project Title:** Camp 6 Short Term Improvements (C91)**Project Manager:** Bob Schaevitz**Division:** Project Management/Compliance**PMIS #:** N/A**Start Date:** 5/15/2003**Completion Date:** 6/30/2003**Location:** Yosemite Valley**Brief Project Description:**

This project involves interim repairs and improvements using techniques previously applied to the "Camp 6" day use parking area. Specific actions include the following: addition of up to 60 day-use parking spaces in the northeast corner of the site (old tent city area) which will involve placement of 6 inch aggregate base over entire parking area; creation of a marked pedestrian gravel path through "infield" (center) of the site; improving the pedestrian crosswalk and path connection at Northside Drive; paving of main loop road, bus turnback and drive to additional parking area; addition of 3 ADA parking spaces along with the paving of the existing 8 spaces; creation and paving of ADA-compliant pedestrian path; fence repair and replacement; general resurfacing and repair to existing potholes, ruts, and other worn areas; and addition of up to 30 new signs along with replacement, and upgrading of damaged signs. The Camp 6 area is a historically highly disturbed area and has been used for a variety of things over the years, including employee housing, equipment storage, construction staging, and most recently day-use parking. These interim improvements will formalize vehicle and pedestrian pathways to allow for more efficient movement through the parking area. (See attached "Camp 6 Interim Repairs-Description of Work Elements" and Camp 6 Graphics dated 5/29/03 for a more detailed description of construction activities.)

Planning and Compliance Background:

- ☐ Has compliance already been completed?
Provide name of compliance document, compliance tracking number, and date of signature:
- ☐ Is this project explicitly called for in a completed (not draft) park planning document?
Indicate which plan:
Provide page number(s) from the plan which reference this project:
Is this project still consistent with the approved plan? (If NO, prepare EA/EIS)
- ☐ Does this project require consultation with any federal, state, local agency, or tribes?
Provide name of agency and dates consulted:
- ☐ Must a Wilderness Minimum Requirement Analysis be completed?
Date received from PM by Planning and Compliance:

II. National Environmental Policy Act Checklist

Does the proposed project potentially (If box checked, then YES):

- ☐ Adversely impact public health and safety?
- ☐ Adversely impact historic or cultural resources, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, ecologically critical areas, or Natural Landmarks?
- ☐ Have highly controversial environmental effects?
- ☐ Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown risks?

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- ☐ Establish a precedent for future actions resulting in significant environmental effects?
- ☐ Relate directly to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?
- ☐ Involve unrestricted conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources?
- ☐ Adversely affect properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?
- ☐ Adversely impact a species listed or proposed to be listed as Federally threatened, endangered or adversely impact designated critical habitat for these species?
- ☐ Violate any federal, state, local or tribal laws or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment, such as Executive Order 11098 (Floodplains Management) or Executive Order 11090 (Protection of Wetlands) or Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act or Wilderness Act?
- ☐ Have a disproportionate, significant adverse effect on low-income or minority populations?
- ☐ Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of non-native invasive species?
 Identify species:
- ☐ Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of federally listed noxious weeds?
 Identify species:
- ☐ Require a permit from a federal, state, or local agency to proceed, unless the agency from which the permit is required agrees that a CE is appropriate?
 Identify agency:
- ☐ Have the potential for significant impact as indicated by a federal, state, or local agency or Indian Tribe?
 Identify:
- ☐ Have the potential to be controversial because of disagreement over possible environmental effects?
 Identify:
- ☐ Have the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values?
 Explain:
- ☐ Restrict access to, and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites?
 Explain:

NEPA Comments/Conditions:

If any of the above exceptions apply, the project cannot be Categorical Excluded and an EA or an EIS is required.

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III. YNP Checklist

Does the project contribute to measurable impacts on (If box checked, then YES):

- ☐ Geologic resources (i.e. Soils, Bedrock, Streambeds, etc.)?
Explain:
- ☐ Air quality?
Explain:
- ☐ Soundscape (i.e. Increase Noise, Affect Natural Sounds)?
Explain:
- ☐ Water quality/quantity or streamflow characteristics?
Explain:
- ☐ Types and levels of land use, including occupancy, income, values, and/or ownership?
Explain:
- ☐ Unique ecosystems?
Explain:
- ☐ Unique, important fish/wildlife or their habitats?
Explain:
- ☐ Visitor experience or aesthetic resources (i.e. Supply, Demand, Visitation Activities, etc.)?
Explain:
- ☐ Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base and/or infrastructure?
Explain:
- ☐ Energy resources?
Explain:
- ☐ Gateway communities?
Explain:
- ☐ Long term management of resources or land resources productivity?
Explain:
- ☐ Pollution Prevention (greening of the parks)?
Explain:
- ☐ Other Important environmental resources (e.g., geothermal, paleontological, or night skies)?
Explain:

YNP Comments/Conditions:

Limit amount of traffic disruption during construction phases. Mark alternative routes and parking areas clearly.

*If any of the above exceptions apply, the project cannot be Categorically Excluded and an EA or an EIS is required.***IV. Special Status Species Checklist**

Within the area of potential impact, are there any (If box checked, then YES):

- ☒ Species of special concern? (Federal or State)
Identify species: Multiple Federal and State species of concern exist in Yosemite Valley; no adverse impacts anticipated.
- ☒ Proposed or State-listed threatened or endangered species?
Identify species: Bald eagle (transient), American peregrine falcon, Great grey owl, Willow flycatcher, Sierra Nevada red fox; no adverse impacts anticipated.
- ☒ Park rare plants or vegetation?
Identify species: Multiple park rare plants and vegetation in Yosemite Valley; no adverse impacts anticipated.
- ☒ Potential habitats for the special-status species listed above?
Identify species: Multiple habitats exist; no adverse impacts anticipated.

Special Status Species Comments/Conditions:

The proposed project involves removal of both vegetation and between 20-25 mature and immature cedar trees. The proposed project, however, will not adversely impact park rare plants, special status species, any culturally or historically significant trees, or any highly valued scenic views.

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V. National Historic Preservation Act Checklist

Does the proposed project (If box checked, then YES):

- ☒ Entail ground disturbances?=
Explain: Removal of shrubs and trees; grading; resurfacing; and repair and replacement of road signs.
- ☐ Have any archeological or ethnographic sites within the area of potential effect?=
Identify:
- ☐ Entail alteration of a historic structure or a cultural landscape?=
Explain:
- ☐ Has a National Register form been completed?=
Reference:
- ☐ Are there any structures on the List of Classified Structures in the area of potential effect?=
List:

*If yes, then a XIX must be completed

NHPA Comments/Conditions:

VI. Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Checklist

Does the proposed project (If box checked, then YES):

- ☒ Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor? Merced River
- ☐ Fall within the bed and banks AND will it effect the free-flow of the river?
Explain:
If Yes, WSRA Section 7 determination required
- ☐ Have the possibility of affecting water quality of the area?
Explain:
- ☒ Remain consistent with its river segment classification (Wild, Scenic, or Recreational - MRP p. 39)?
Explain: Recreational
- ☒ Protect and enhance ORVs (Scientific, Scenic, Geologic Processes/Conditions, Recreational, Biological, Cultural, Hydrologic Processes (i.e. Water Quality, Unique Wetlands)) on a segment-wide basis (refer to Fig. 2 in the MRP - p. 43)?
Explain: Will protect ORVs, although probably not enhance them.
- ☐ Fall within the River Protection Overlay (MRP p. 99-101)?
- ☐ Remain consistent with conditions of the River Protection Overlay (MRP p. 53)?
Explain:
- ☒ Remain consistent with Management Zoning (MRP p. 99-101)?
Explain: Park Operations and Administration; Day Use
- ☐ Fall on a tributary to a Wild and Scenic River?
 - ☐ Will the project invade (encroach or intrude upon) a Wild and Scenic River corridor?
Explain:
 - ☐ Will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?
Explain:

WSRA Comments/Conditions:

Camp 5 additional parking area boundaries are within the corridor and border the RPO; no adverse impacts anticipated as long as boundaries remain outside the RPO. Adhere to plans for protecting and marking boundaries as stated in project proposal.

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VII. NEPA Analysis And Approval Conditions

The project meets the terms and conditions of a categorical exclusion to NEPA.

Applicable Categorical Exclusion:

DO12 3.4.C.09 Repair, resurfacing, striping, installation of traffic control devices, repair/replacement of guardrails, culverts, signs, and other minor existing features on existing roads when no potential for environmental impact exists

Conditions:

While approximately 20-25 mature and immature cedar trees will be removed, none of the removal will involve park rare plants, specifically any oak trees. Camp 6 additional parking area boundaries are within the corridor and border the RPO; activities should not occur outside anticipated boundaries thus no adverse impacts are anticipated. Project proponents must adhere to plans for boundary enforcement as stated in the project proposal. All construction and foot travel are to be conducted outside the RPO at all times. Clearly mark alternative routes and parking areas during construction phases. Proposed project will not involve removal or disturbance of existing mature and immature oak trees; immature oak trees will be protected and parking areas will be located outside of larger oak tree drip zones. Cedars scheduled for removal are located in an identified root rot zone, thus YNP policies regarding root rot and treatment of stumps and soil from this area will apply (see attached YNP Root Rot Management Notes). Cedars are thought to act as a reservoir for annular root disease because they take so long to die. Therefore, removal of cedars in known root rot zones is consistent with YNP vegetation management policies. If construction activities disturb at least one acre of total land area, then this project must conform with the requirements of the NPDES General Permit for storm water discharges associated with construction activity as stipulated in "Final Rule - Report to Congress on the Phase II Storm Water Regulations" published in the Federal Register/Vol 64, No. 235, December 8, 1999/Rules and Regulations - that took effect in California March 10, 2003 (see attached).

This project has been reviewed in accordance with the above criteria and it has been determined that the project will result in no or minimal environmental effects.

Therefore, it is Categorically Excluded from further environmental review required under the National Environmental Policy Act. Additionally, the necessary compliance coordination has been completed with regards to the National Historic Preservation Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Endangered Species Act.

[Signature]
Compliance Specialist

6/2/03
Date

[Signature]
Compliance Program Manager

6/2/03
Date

Prepared by:

Leslie Boughton

With information from:

Bob Schaevitz

[Signature]
Chief, Project Management

6/2/03
Date